



DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 165

[Docket Number USCG-2021-0379]

RIN 1625-AA00

Safety Zone; Lake Charles, Lake Charles, LA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Temporary final rule.

SUMMARY: The Coast Guard is establishing a temporary safety zone for all navigable waters of Lake Charles west of 93° 13' 51.2"W, east of 93° 14' 8.3"W, and extending 500 yards south from the northern shore of Lake Charles. This safety zone is necessary to protect persons and vessels from hazards associated with a Pro Watercross event on August 28 and 29, 2021 in Lake Charles, LA. This regulation prohibits persons and vessels from being in the safety zone unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur or a designated representative.

DATES: This rule is effective from 8 a.m. through 6 p.m. on August 28, 2021 and August 29, 2021.

ADDRESSES: To view documents mentioned in this preamble as being available in the docket, go to <https://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG-2021-0379 in the search box and click "Search." Next, in the Document Type column, select "Supporting & Related Material."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you have questions on this rule, call or email LT Christopher Saylor, MSU Lake Charles, U.S. Coast Guard; telephone 337-491-7816, email Christopher.M.Saylor@uscg.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Table of Abbreviations

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
FR	Federal Register
NPRM	Notice of proposed rulemaking
§	Section
U.S.C.	United States Code

II. Background Information and Regulatory History

On May 19, 2021, the Pro Watercross Organization notified the Coast Guard that it would be conducting watercross races from 8 a.m. through 6 p.m. on August 28 and 29, 2021. These watercross races are scheduled to be conducted along the north shore of Lake Charles in waters west of 93° 13' 51.2"W, east of 93° 14' 8.3"W, and extending 500 yards south from the north shoreline of Lake Charles, LA. The Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur (COTP) determined that potential hazards associated with the pro watercross races would be a safety concern for spectator craft and vessels in the vicinity of these race events. In response, on June 3, 2021, the Coast Guard published a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) titled Safety Zone; Lake Charles, Lake Charles, LA (86 FR 29725). There we stated why we issued the NPRM, and invited comments on our proposed regulatory action related to this marine event. During the comment period that ended June 18, 2021, we received one comment concurring with the proposed rule.

Under 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3), the Coast Guard finds that good cause exists for making this rule effective less than 30 days after publication in the **Federal Register**. Delaying the effective date of this rule would be impracticable because immediate action is needed to respond to the potential safety hazards associated with high speed boat races.

III. Legal Authority and Need for Rule

The Coast Guard is issuing this rule under authority in 46 U.S.C. 70034 (previously 33 U.S.C. 1231). The Captain of the Port Port Arthur (COTP) has determined that potential hazards associated with pro watercross races at this location

would a safety concern for spectator craft and vessels in the vicinity of these race events.

The purpose of this rule is to ensure safety of vessels and the navigable waters in the safety zone before, during, and after the scheduled event.

IV. Discussion of Comments, Changes, and the Rule

As noted above, we received one concurring comment on our NPRM published June 3, 2021. There are no changes in the regulatory text of this rule from the proposed rule in the NPRM.

This rule establishes a safety zone from 8 a.m. on August 28, 2021 through 6 p.m. on August 29, 2021. The safety zone will cover all navigable waters west of 93° 13' 51.2"W, east of 93° 14' 8.3"W, and extending 500 yards south from the north shoreline of Lake Charles, LA. The duration of the safety zone is intended to protect participants, spectators, and other persons and vessels, in the navigable waters of the Lake Charles during the watercross races.

No vessel or person will be permitted to enter the safety zone without obtaining permission from the COTP or a designated representative.

V. Regulatory Analyses

We developed this rule after considering numerous statutes and Executive orders related to rulemaking. Below we summarize our analyses based on a number of these statutes and Executive orders, and we discuss First Amendment rights of protestors.

A. Regulatory Planning and Review

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits. This rule has not been designated a “significant regulatory action,” under Executive Order 12866. Accordingly, this rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This regulatory action determination is based on the proposed size, location, and

duration of the safety zone. The temporary safety zone would be enforced on a 500-yards by 500-yards portion of navigable waters of Lake Charles, LA for only two days. This rule would be enforced to protect personnel, vessels, and the marine environment from hazards associated with the pro watercross race.

The Coast Guard will notify the public by issuing Local Notice to Mariners (LNM), and/or Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) and Broadcast Notice to Mariners via VHF-FM radio and the rule will allow vessels to seek permission to enter the zone during scheduled breaks.

B. Impact on Small Entities

The Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980, 5 U.S.C. 601–612, as amended, requires Federal agencies to consider the potential impact of regulations on small entities during rulemaking. The term “small entities” comprises small businesses, not-for-profit organizations that are independently owned and operated and are not dominant in their fields, and governmental jurisdictions with populations of less than 50,000. The Coast Guard received one concurring comment from Lauren Jones on this rulemaking. The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

While some owners or operators of vessels intending to transit the safety zone may be small entities, for the reasons stated in section V.A above, this rule will not have a significant economic impact on any vessel owner or operator.

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-121), we want to assist small entities in understanding this rule. If the rule would affect your small business, organization, or governmental jurisdiction and you have questions concerning its provisions or options for compliance, please call or email the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section.

Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247). The Coast Guard will not retaliate against small entities that question or complain about this rule or any policy or action of the Coast Guard.

C. Collection of Information

This rule will not call for a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501–3520).

D. Federalism and Indian Tribal Governments

A rule has implications for federalism under Executive Order 13132, Federalism, if it has a substantial direct effect on the States, on the relationship between the National Government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. We have analyzed this rule under that Order and have determined that it is consistent with the fundamental federalism principles and preemption requirements described in Executive Order 13132.

Also, this rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

E. Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531–1538) requires Federal agencies to assess the effects of their discretionary regulatory actions. In

particular, the Act addresses actions that may result in the expenditure by a State, local, or tribal government, in the aggregate, or by the private sector of \$100,000,000 (adjusted for inflation) or more in any one year. Though this rule will not result in such an expenditure, we do discuss the effects of this rule elsewhere in this preamble.

F. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Directive 023-01, Rev. 1, associated implementing instructions, and Environmental Planning COMDTINST 5090.1 (series), which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969(42 U.S.C. 4321–4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule involves a safety zone lasting 10 hours on each of the two event days, and prohibits entry within 500 yards of the beach area of North Lake Charles. It is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph L60(a) of Appendix A, Table 1 of DHS Instruction Manual 023–01–001–01, Rev. 1. A Record of Environmental Consideration supporting this determination is available in the docket. For instructions on locating the docket, see the ADDRESSES section of this preamble.

G. Protest Activities

The Coast Guard respects the First Amendment rights of protesters. Protesters are asked to call or email the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to coordinate protest activities so that your message can be received without jeopardizing the safety or security of people, places or vessels.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part

165 as follows:

**PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREA AND LIMITED ACCESS
AREAS**

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 46 U.S.C. 70034, 70051; 33 CFR 1.05-1, 6.04-1, 6.04-6, and 160.5;

Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

2. Add § 165.T08-0379 to read as follows:

§ 165.T08-0379 Safety Zone; Lake Charles, Lake Charles, Louisiana.

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: all navigable waters of the Lake Charles west of 93° 13' 51.2"W, east of 93° 14' 8.3"W, and extending 500 yards south from the northern shore of Lake Charles. The duration of the safety zone is intended to protect participants, spectators, and other persons and vessels, on the navigable waters of the Lake Charles during the watercross races.

(b) *Enforcement period.* This section is effective from 8 a.m. through 6 p.m. on August 28, 2021 and August 29, 2021.

(c) *Regulations.* (1) In accordance with the general regulations in § 165.23 of this part, entry of vessels or persons into this zone is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur (COTP) or a designated representative. They may be contacted on VHF-FM channel 13 or 16, or by phone at by telephone at 337-912-0073.

(2) The COTP or a designated representative may forbid and control the movement of all vessels in the regulated area. When hailed or signaled by an official patrol vessel, a vessel shall come to an immediate stop and comply with the directions given. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the area, citation for failure to comply, or both.

(3) The COTP or a designated representative may terminate the event or the

operation of any vessel at any time it is deemed necessary for the protection of life or property.

(4) The COTP or a designated representative will terminate enforcement of the special local regulations at the conclusion of the event.

(e) *Informational broadcasts.* The COTP or a designated representative will inform the public of the effective period for the safety zone as well as any changes in the dates and times of enforcement through Local Notice to Mariners (LNMs), Broadcast Notices to Mariners (BNMs), and/or Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIBs) as appropriate.

Dated: June 22, 2021

James B. Suffern,
Commander, U.S. Coast Guard,
Acting Captain of the Port Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur.